

THE EVENING FARMER

Published at 27 Fairfield Avenue,
Bridgeport, Conn.

THE FARMER PUBLISHING CO.

Entered in the Postoffice at Bridgeport
Conn. as second class matter.

ISSUED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

DAILY EDITION:
One Year\$3.00
One Month50
One Week10
WEEKLY EDITION:
One Year in Advance.....\$1.00



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1909.

The decision of the Bridgeport Brass Co. to remove its sales headquarters from New York to this city, is highly commendable. There exists no adequate reason why the sales departments of other local manufacturing corporations should not also be brought here. Perhaps, then, fewer of the large owners would be non-residents, and there would be less inclination among them to regard Bridgeport as merely a good location for their plants.

Hon. Horace H. Lurton, nominated for Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court by President Taft, has been on the bench since 1875. He began as a Judge of the Tennessee Supreme Court, and has since served continuously on the Federal bench. His nomination is, in effect, a reversal of the judgment of President Roosevelt, who refused to promote him to the Supreme Court, though recommended by Secretary Taft. Roosevelt policies are gradually being turned down.

Senator LaFollette does not approve the Senate rule of majority of service in committee appointments. He says it "is really only an excuse for refusing committee recognition to younger Senators who are not regarded as 'reliable' by the Aldrich management." There isn't much, if any, doubt that this interpretation of the rule's purpose is correct. It explains not only why Aldrich retains his grip upon the Senate, but also why progressive, modern-day measures are so often turned down or shelved by committees headed by men who may fairly be called fossils.

Protests from manufacturing corporations in Connecticut cities, including Bridgeport, against public access to corporate tax returns, with the apparent purpose of preventing local assessments from obtaining accurate information, will evidently prove ineffective, unless Congress amends the law in accordance with their wishes. In an analysis of the Treasury Department's orders relative to the levying of the corporation tax, republished elsewhere in this issue, the New York Journal of Commerce says: "The language of the law relating to filing returns for record and public inspection is so clear that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has no discretion whatever in the matter."

The latest suggestion for disposal of the deposits of postal savings banks, if established, is that they be used in the construction of post office buildings throughout the country in towns which have only rural post offices and branch post-offices in cities where more sub-stations are needed. The supporting argument is that the 2 per cent. interest on deposits would be less than the rents now paid. It would, however, be equivalent in effect to the issuance of bonds for such construction, to which Congress would be very unlikely to consent. The principle upon which Congress usually acts in the construction of post office buildings, is the payment therefor from current revenues and not from the proceeds of new bond issues.

If the Liberal party carries the coming British parliamentary elections, home rule for Ireland will be among its policies, provided the promise of Prime Minister Asquith is made in good faith. In opening the campaign, he declared explicitly in favor of the principle, qualifying it however as follows:

That while safeguarding the supreme, indivisible authority of the Imperial Parliament, there can be set up in Ireland a system of full self-government as regards purely Irish affairs. There is not, and cannot be, any question of separation, or of rivalry, or competing for supremacy. That is the Liberal policy.

This is less than some of the Irish leaders desire, but it is evidently all that can be secured under present conditions. At this distance, acceptance of it would seem to be wise, for it might serve as a stepping stone to a higher achievement of Irish ambitions.

The Michigan Supreme Court has refused to grant a writ of mandamus, compelling the Secretary of State to grant a business permit to the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. This decision is based upon legislative enactments keeping separate these two lines of activity, telephone and telegraph, which laws, the court says, "indicate a policy on the part of the State to afford its people a choice of two agencies of independent ownership." Thus, the independent companies win one success in their fight against what they call the "Wire trust." Whether it is wise on the part of the State of Michigan to enforce a separation of two activities which are really so closely related, is most decidedly a question. This policy is certainly not in the interest of economy of operation, for it must increase the cost, and the augmented burden will fall in the end upon the patrons of both activities.

AN INCREASED TAX RATE

Bridgeport is about to "welcome" the biggest tax rate in the history of the city, but as the city is also more prosperous than it has ever been before, it is expected to stand the strain without any great effort on the part of a majority. In times of such advances, however, there are always a few upon whom the extra assessment comes as a hardship. Bridgeport does not seem likely to be the only city in Connecticut to face an unprecedented tax rate this year. The indications are that there will be advances very generally throughout the State. This is the tendency of the times, the tendency of local government and the tendency of State and national government, and it is bound to hark back to property owner and rent payers—Ansonia Sentinel.

The "few upon whom the extra assessment comes as a hardship", are really the many in a manufacturing city, and these many are now paying five-eighths of the taxes.

But unless assessments are equalized, this wrong is likely to continue and even to be increased, for a higher tax rate is practically certain, made so by increased expenditures, a new State tax, etc. That other cities are "in the same boat", is small consolation to the owner of a small home. Nor is the hardship lessened by the fact that the National and State governments have been compelled by increased expenditures to seek new sources of revenue.

The only palliation of the local evil, is tax equalization which would compel wealth to bear its just share of the cost of government.

FOR A NESS OF POTPAGE

Street Railway Companies Throw a Sop to the Voters in the Hope of Getting Possession of the Streets for Forty Years

KANSAS CITY'S BIRTHRIGHT ON THE BARGAIN COUNTER

Forfeiture Clause that Would Make a Horse Laugh—Referendum on Franchise Will Test Voters' Intelligence.

In Kansas City, Missouri, they are debating a street railway franchise that vitally affects the future welfare of perhaps a million of people. The Metropolitan Street Railway and its allied companies now have franchises that do not terminate until 1953. Under these franchises the companies pay eight per cent. of their gross receipts to the city and agree to abide by the provisions of their franchise and "any law or ordinance of Kansas City" under penalty of the absolute forfeiture of their rights in the streets. If at any time the companies fail to pay their eight per cent. gross receipts within ten days after it is due, the city may take possession of the street car lines and run them itself until it has collected the amount in default. The companies may contest the validity of any additional regulating ordinance enacted by the city and not subject themselves to forfeiture by failing to obey it pending the final decision of the courts. This privilege does not extend, however, to the provision of the franchise themselves.

The companies are not satisfied with this arrangement. They wanted to get control of the city instead of being under its control. So they have procured the passage by a compliant mayor and council of a new franchise ordinance only six years after the last settlement and sixteen years before the expiration of the franchises now in force. What do they propose? A new grant to run for 42 years from the present date without possibility of purchase by the city until six years before the expiration of that period, and then only in case the city will take their entire system in Missouri including lines outside the city limits. The eight per cent. gross receipts tax is eliminated entirely. In place of the present stringent forfeiture clause the companies are to be paid for the franchise that would make a horse laugh unless he was a municipal ownership enthusiast. The companies "Express" agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this franchise ordinance. Nothing is said in this new scheme about abiding by other ordinances that may be enacted later by the city. Furthermore, the companies agree that in certain contingencies their franchises shall be forfeited. What are those contingencies? The companies give them in written notice that they are in default. After receiving such notice the companies must continue in default for three months exclusive of all times during which the companies may be delayed or interfered with without their concurrence by accident, labor strikes or the orders or judgments of any court entered in any suit brought without their concurrence. It is not easy to prove non-compliance. But let the companies continue in default for the period mentioned with all additions and allowances used up, then the city may go into court to get the franchise forfeited. After the companies have fought the issue through to the United States Supreme Court and been beaten, the judgment of forfeiture is suspended for three months more to give them a chance to comply with the provisions of the franchise. If they do not comply for a few days, the judgment of forfeiture must be annulled. Then they can begin to violate the ordinance again and go on as before. But even if the forfeiture decree should by any possible mischance be carried into effect without being happily beaten, the companies would never have been in bankruptcy, it is stipulated that the forfeiture shall not be effective as against a mortgage or impair his right to receive \$3,000,000 less than the actual value of the property excluding franchise value. The companies now claim a value of \$23,200,000, of which \$23,140,000 is in Missouri.

In other words the companies could bond up to within the \$3,000,000 of the value, all their property including the several millions outside of Kansas City, Missouri and they could not forfeit the franchise, even if they wanted to, under any conditions whatever, as against these bonds.

In order to get the people of Kansas City to swallow this unspeakable ordinance the companies have thrown a sop in the shape of alleged four-cent fares, that is to say, 5 cent cash fares and tickets at the rate of six for a quarter or 25 for one dollar, and two-for-five half-fare tickets for children between five and 12 years of age. But to take advantage of the half-fare or the 25 for a dollar tickets, the people must go to the street railway office or to some one of the 25 ticket stations to be located in the two Kansas Cities. These rates may be changed, however, at any time by the city council if the companies agree to it. And even if they remain in default, the companies are bound to live up to them would be next to impossible, as already shown.

This Kansas City fight which is to be determined by vote of the people on Dec. 15, 1909, illustrates the appalling need of wider public intelligence on franchises. The Kansas City companies have millions in inflated securities at stake. They are playing the old game so well described by Dr. DeWitt F. Wilson in his chapter on "How Franchises Are Won" that it is one of the tricks of the public service corporation lawyer, says he, "to draft the franchise for his client so

that the powers of regulation of which the city could not be deprived in any case appear to be reserved to the public authorities in the most explicit terms, and this reservation is pointed out to prove how liberal to the city the company's proposition is. When public opinion has reached such a state that the corporation asking for a different kind of franchise is making concessions on points concerning which franchises are usually silent, the expert attorney introduces clauses making extraordinary concessions to the city, which further on to the franchise are so limited, checked and modified as to be in reality worthless from the public standpoint. A few weasel words judiciously distributed at strategic points, a few omissions easily overlooked in the ensemble of the whole, a few fair-sounding reservations upon which law suits in the Federal courts may be based, are likely to vitiate any franchise ordinance or contract drafted by lawyers who are paid to outwit the city."

Dr. Wilson's book "Municipal Franchises," The Engineering News-Public Co., New York, is a mine of information in regard to municipal franchises. It contains abstracts of a very large number of grants of many different kinds, with provisions good, bad and in different. These franchises are described so that any intelligent reader can detect the pitfalls. It is inconceivable that an honest attorney and body of aldermen could have let the Kansas City proposition pass them in its present form if they had first read this book. Where the city attorney and the aldermen, not honest servants of the people, the case is quite different. In that case they do not care to learn anything out of books.

"When companies need to issue new bonds for reconstruction or extension," writes Wilson, "almost as if he had the Kansas City scheme in mind, 'they sometimes feel the need of new franchises, even though the one they have does not expire for ten or fifteen years. Or it may be that without any necessity except the desire to secure themselves and their property as far as possible, they begin to maneuver for a new franchise at such opportune times that the companies enter politics by the back door and endeavor secretly to elect a friendly body of aldermen. They then give them written notice that they are in default. After receiving such notice the companies must continue in default for three months exclusive of all times during which the companies may be delayed or interfered with without their concurrence by accident, labor strikes or the orders or judgments of any court entered in any suit brought without their concurrence. It is not easy to prove non-compliance. But let the companies continue in default for the period mentioned with all additions and allowances used up, then the city may go into court to get the franchise forfeited. After the companies have fought the issue through to the United States Supreme Court and been beaten, the judgment of forfeiture is suspended for three months more to give them a chance to comply with the provisions of the franchise. If they do not comply for a few days, the judgment of forfeiture must be annulled. Then they can begin to violate the ordinance again and go on as before. But even if the forfeiture decree should by any possible mischance be carried into effect without being happily beaten, the companies would never have been in bankruptcy, it is stipulated that the forfeiture shall not be effective as against a mortgage or impair his right to receive \$3,000,000 less than the actual value of the property excluding franchise value. The companies now claim a value of \$23,200,000, of which \$23,140,000 is in Missouri."

REHEMATISM CURED IN A DAY.
Dr. Detchon's Relief for Rheumatism and Neuralgia radically cures in one day. Its action is a new system is remarkable and mysterious. It removes at once the cause and the disease immediately disappears. The first dose greatly benefits. 75 cents and \$1. Sold by Curtis Pharmacy, Drugist, 1149 Main St. G234t.

ATTORNEY HOLDEN SUE
BY HODGDON FOR \$25,000.
New Haven, Dec. 15.—George R. Hodgdon, proprietor of the Hub restaurant in Meadow street, formerly Bradley & McCabe's, has brought suit to recover \$25,000 from Attorney Benedict M. Holden of Hartford, alleging that the defendant while acting as his legal adviser, cheated, defrauded and injured him.

The suit is the outcome of business difficulties which centered around Mr. Hodgdon when he was proprietor of the No. 20 hotel in Hartford, prior to his taking charge of the Hub.

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The Choicest Confections in Bridgeport. Premier, Quality, Apollo, Criterion, Maillard's and Park & Tilford's. Thermo-Bottle, Manicure Sets, Gillette, Auto Strop, Ever Ready, Durham Duplex and Ender's Safety Razors. Sargent's Clear Goggles. Perfumes and Toilet Articles.

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STATE ST.

The Royal Hotel and Cafe

EUROPEAN PLAN

GRILL ROOM A LA CARTE

AT ALL HOURS

Fairfield County News.

Pupils Have Bank Books.

The results of the new system of school savings in Shelton as they relate to the pupils individually, are just commencing to show. Thus far something over seventy of the pupils have deposited enough to entitle them to have individual books and be rated as regular depositors of the bank. The books have been made out in the names of the depositors and will be given to the pupils, who will, after having seen them, return them to the teachers, and they will be kept in the superintendent's office. The pupils will have these at specified intervals for inspection and may take them home for their parents to inspect, but they will be kept in the superintendent's office, as long as the pupil remains in school. The pupils, of course, have a full record of their accounts in the pass books which each has all the time.

Rooster Attacks Lady.

A young lady who attends one of the schools in Danbury, was attacked by a big rooster while on her way to the city, Wednesday. The young lady seemed to be in a fair way to receive some serious injury from the sharp beak of the long spurs of the bird when a lucky swing of her dinner box knocked the big bird down. The rooster prepared to come at her again, but at that moment a man came along and rescued the young lady from her peculiar predicament.

Caught An Opossum.

A fine specimen of an opossum was captured by Frederick C. Freudenfuth of Norwalk, Tuesday night. He set a steel trap where he supposed a raccoon was living, and when he visited the trap he found the opossum caught by two toes of one of the fore feet. The opossum is about half grown and weighs about seven and a half pounds.

120 Meads in 500 Members.

At the recent annual roll-call of the Greenwich Congregational church, it was found that of a membership of 500, 120 bear the name of Mead. Miss Elizabeth Stillson is the oldest member, having been connected with the church for 71 years.

\$27,000 to School Funds.

Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer, widow of the Sugar Trust's former chief, has long been negotiating with the United States Government for the purchase of a certain plot of land owned by her and desired as the site of the new post-office. \$20,000 was decided upon as including lines outside the city limits. Mrs. Havemeyer turned over the entire amount, with \$7,000 from her own income, to be used as a fund for the maintenance and improvement of the school. Public school H. O. Havemeyer gave the borough of Greenwich.

COLDS CAUSE HEADACHE

LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine, the world wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. Call for full name. Look for signature E. W. GROVE, 25c.

PAINTERS HAD THIRTY FEET TO STREET PAVEMENT.

(Special from United Press)
Norwalk, Dec. 15.—George Jewett and George Mills, two well known Norwalk painters, fell 30 feet at 2 o'clock yesterday from the cornice of the Wilson block at the corner of Water and Wall streets to the street pavement below, when the swing scaffold broke, striking on their heads and injuring them severely. Jewett's legs were broken, his head split open, spine badly injured and will probably die. Mills is not quite so badly hurt.

An Unusual Sale.

Jacoby's great December suit sale is an extraordinary merchandising event. Such a sale is hardly ever conducted at a time when buying is so opportune. The continued moderate weather has aided many in delaying the purchase of heavier clothing until now, when real winter is evident, or must very soon be with us. Buying can be delayed no longer and here comes Jacoby's sale right at the needful moment. It will perform the mission of saving much money for many people. Realize it is now in force and the prices are as low and lower than have been offered for some time. Buy now and you will be glad to have your money back yet a month or more away.—Adv.

Last of the Pottery Sales.

After Dec. 24, A. Elwood and Son, Inc., the auctioneers, will discontinue their pottery sales, and as there are only nine more days left in which to buy, it is advised that those desirous of receiving some of this pottery at their own price will find it to their advantage to attend one of the auction sales which are held every afternoon and evening at 2:00 and 7:00 in the store located at 161 State street, next to Wallace's bakery. Jardiniere and pedestals, umbrellas, stands, rustic pottery, vases, fish, game, fruit and berry sets, platters, dishes, decanters, and other ware of every description and other goods too numerous to mention will be sold absolutely to the highest bidder. Those who positively wish to have the goods offered for sale, so if you are looking for some bargains in pottery make it your business to be at the sale tonight.—Adv.

Christmas Presents

In all their richness and beauty consisting of diamonds, watches, jewelry, cut glass, silverware, clocks, umbrellas, clocks, toilet sets, manicuring sets, shaving sets, smoking sets, opera glasses, mesh jewel boxes, bags, compact, etc., await your inspection at Buechler's. Prices just as matchless and true as we advertise them to be. Goods as honest as manufacturer or recognized standing can make them. Large selections of different styles instead of only a limited number. Consider all the advantages with a positive assurance that our prices are far below all others. Don't wait till the last moment, make your selections today. Every article sold is fully guaranteed, and we will cheerfully refund money if any article purchased does not prove just as represented. Store open evenings, M. J. Buechler, the reliable jeweler, 48 Fairfield Ave., near Middle St.—Adv.

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RUBBER FOOTWEAR

We are headquarters for Boots and Rubbers. Everything and anything in this line you might ask for. Our prices on the best grades are no higher than many ask for the poorer kinds. Now that Rubbers cost more to buy many stores substitute the cheaper grades. You get what you pay for here.

Arctics

All styles and kinds.
Men's Arctics, \$1.00 to \$2.75.
Boys' Arctics, 98c to \$1.25.
Children's Arctic Rubbers, 75c up.

Hip Boots

Does your boy want Hip Boots for Christmas? We have them in all sizes and lengths. Lowest prices for the "good kind."

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Felt Boots for Men and Boys in all styles and grades—Duck Overs, Rolled Edge Overs, Etc., Etc.

Hot Water Bottles

A good companion to have these days and nights.

Face Bottles, 50c up.
1-quart Water Bottles, 65c up.
2-quart Water Bottles, 75c up.
3-quart Water Bottles, 85c up.

The Ailing Rubber Co.

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HOLIDAY GIFTS

FOR SMOKERS

ECKLER & CO.,

968—MAIN STREET—874

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261 State Street.

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Everything in Pottery at Your Own Price

Jardiniere and Pedestals, Umbrella Stands, Rustic Pottery Vases

Fish, Game, Fruit and Cake Sets, Platters, Salad Dishes, Decorated Ware of all kinds, White Ware of all kinds, Etc., Etc.,

Auction Sales Every Afternoon and Evening at 2 and 7 P. M.

These goods MUST BE SOLD for the high dollar, regardless of cost. Everything must go to the highest bidder.

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We guarantee to save you money.

Furs reserved for Holiday presents.

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1026 MAIN ST.

WOMEN'S FINE BOOTS

AT MOLLAN'S

My presents last year were some china, some fancy work made by my chum. Two Gibson silks, a Little black Dinah. A gay ribbon Dangling from. I had lace, worked in patterns of lilacs, and a book. That an imbecile wrote, and a picture of Two Gibson silks, and a necklace. To wear round my throat. And after the flurry was over, I answered, "Yes, Everything suits." But down in my heart, I had wanted A new pair of Mollan's fine boots.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"

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Special Popular Prices
Mat. 10, 20, 30c Eve. 10, 20, 30, 50

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